

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
NORTHERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
)
)
PLAINTIFF,)
)
)
v.) CIVIL ACTION NO. 2:07cv429-WHA
)
)
ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THREE)
THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED NINETY)
(\$153,290) DOLLARS IN UNITED)
STATES CURRENCY; and,)
)
THREE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED)
EIGHTY (\$3,880) DOLLARS IN)
UNITED STATES CURRENCY,)
)
DEFENDANTS.)

DECREE OF FORFEITURE

On May 15, 2007, a Verified Complaint for Forfeiture In Rem against the Defendant One Hundred Fifty Three Thousand Two Hundred Ninety (\$153,290) Dollars in United States currency and Three Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty (\$3,880) Dollars in United States currency was filed on behalf of the United States of America. The Complaint alleges that the Defendant currency was used or intended to be used in exchange for controlled substances, or represents proceeds of trafficking in controlled substance, or was used or intended to be used to facilitate the commission of a violation of Title II of the Controlled Substances Act, Title 21, United States Code, Section 801 et seq.; and, therefore, it is subject to forfeiture to the United States pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 881(a)(6).

It appearing that process was fully issued in this action and returned according to law;

That pursuant to a Warrant for Arrest In Rem issued by this Court, the United States Marshals Service for the Middle District of Alabama arrested the Defendant currency on July 5, 2007;

That notice of this action was published in the Montgomery Advertiser on July 13, 20 and 27, 2007;

That notice of this action was published in the Houston Chronicle on October 19, 26 and November 2, 2007;

That on May 24, 2007, Lonnie R. Knowles, Attorney at Law, was personally served with copies of the Verified Complaint for Forfeiture In Rem and Warrant and Summons for Arrest In Rem by the United States Marshals Service;

That on June 14, 2007, Rene Garnica was personally served with copies of the Verified Complaint for Forfeiture In Rem and Warrant and Summons for Arrest In Rem by the United States Marshals Service;

That on October 29, 2007, Raul Garnica was personally served with copies of the Verified Complaint for Forfeiture In Rem and Warrant and Summons for Arrest In Rem by the United States Marshals Service;

That on December 13, 2007, Rene Garnica, Raul Garnica and all other persons and entities having an interest in the Defendant currency were defaulted for failure to file a claim within the time

permitted by Rule G of the Supplemental Rules for Certain Admiralty or Maritime Claims and Asset Forfeiture Claims; and,

That no other claim or answer has been filed on behalf of any other party.

Now, therefore, on motion of the United States of America for a Decree of Forfeiture and for good cause otherwise shown, it is hereby:

ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that the Defendant currency be forfeited to the United States of America and no right, title or interest in the Defendant currency shall exist in any other party; and,

The Defendant currency shall be disposed of according to law.

DONE this the 17th day of December, 2007.

/s/ W. Harold Albritton

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

A copy of this checklist is available at the website for the USCA, 11th Circuit at www.ca11.uscourts.gov
 Effective on April 9, 2006, the new fee to file an appeal will increase from \$255.00 to \$455.00.

CIVIL APPEALS JURISDICTION CHECKLIST

1. **Appealable Orders:** Courts of Appeals have jurisdiction conferred and strictly limited by statute:

- (a) **Appeals from final orders pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1291:** Only final orders and judgments of district courts, or final orders of bankruptcy courts which have been appealed to and fully resolved by a district court under 28 U.S.C. § 158, generally are appealable. A final decision is one that “ends the litigation on the merits and leaves nothing for the court to do but execute the judgment.” Pitney Bowes, Inc. v. Mestre, 701 F.2d 1 365, 1 368 (11th Cir. 1983). A magistrate judge’s report and recommendation is not final and appealable until judgment thereon is entered by a district court judge. 28 U.S.C. § 636(c).
- (b) **In cases involving multiple parties or multiple claims,** a judgment as to fewer than all parties or all claims is not a final, appealable decision unless the district court has certified the judgment for immediate review under Fed.R.Civ.P. 54(b). Williams v. Bishop, 732 F.2d 885, 885- 86 (11th Cir. 1984). A judgment which resolves all issues except matters, such as attorneys’ fees and costs, that are collateral to the merits, is immediately appealable. Budinich v. Becton Dickinson & Co., 486 U.S.196, 201, 108 S.Ct. 1717, 1721-22, 100 L.Ed.2d 178 (1988); LaChance v. Duffy’s Draft House, Inc., 146 F.3d 832, 837 (11th Cir. 1998).
- (c) **Appeals pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1292(a):** Appeals are permitted from orders “granting, continuing, modifying, refusing or dissolving injunctions or refusing to dissolve or modify injunctions . . .” and from “[i]nterlocutory decrees . . . determining the rights and liabilities of parties to admiralty cases in which appeals from final decrees are allowed.” Interlocutory appeals from orders denying temporary restraining orders are not permitted.
- (d) **Appeals pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1292(b) and Fed.R.App.P. 5:** The certification specified in 28 U.S.C. § 1292(b) must be obtained before a petition for permission to appeal is filed in the Court of Appeals. The district court’s denial of a motion for certification is not itself appealable.
- (e) **Appeals pursuant to judicially created exceptions to the finality rule:** Limited exceptions are discussed in cases including, but not limited to: Cohen v. Beneficial Indus. Loan Corp., 337 U.S. 541, 546, 69 S.Ct. 1221, 1225-26, 93 L.Ed. 1528 (1949); Atlantic Fed. Sav. & Loan Ass’n v. Blythe Eastman Paine Webber, Inc., 890 F.2d 371, 376 (11th Cir. 1989); Gillespie v. United States Steel Corp., 379 U.S. 148, 157, 85 S.Ct. 308, 312, 13 L.Ed.2d 199 (1964).

2. **Time for Filing:** The timely filing of a notice of appeal is mandatory and jurisdictional. Rinaldo v. Corbett, 256 F.3d 1276, 1278 (11th Cir. 2001). In civil cases, Fed.R.App.P. 4(a) and (c) set the following time limits:

- (a) **Fed.R.App.P. 4(a)(1):** A notice of appeal in compliance with the requirements set forth in Fed.R.App.P. 3 must be filed in the district court within 30 days after the entry of the order or judgment appealed from. However, if the United States or an officer or agency thereof is a party, the notice of appeal must be filed in the district court within 60 days after such entry. **THE NOTICE MUST BE RECEIVED AND FILED IN THE DISTRICT COURT NO LATER THAN THE LAST DAY OF THE APPEAL PERIOD – no additional days are provided for mailing.** Special filing provisions for inmates are discussed below.
- (b) **Fed.R.App.P. 4(a)(3):** “If one party timely files a notice of appeal, any other party may file a notice of appeal within 14 days after the date when the first notice was filed, or within the time otherwise prescribed by this Rule 4(a), whichever period ends later.”
- (c) **Fed.R.App.P. 4(a)(4):** If any party makes a timely motion in the district court under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure of a type specified in this rule, the time for appeal for all parties runs from the date of entry of the order disposing of the last such timely filed motion.
- (d) **Fed.R.App.P. 4(a)(5) and 4(a)(6):** Under certain limited circumstances, the district court may extend the time to file a notice of appeal. Under Rule 4(a)(5), the time may be extended if a motion for an extension is filed within 30 days after expiration of the time otherwise provided to file a notice of appeal, upon a showing of excusable neglect or good cause. Under Rule 4(a)(6), the time may be extended if the district court finds upon motion that a party did not timely receive notice of the entry of the judgment or order, and that no party would be prejudiced by an extension.
- (e) **Fed.R.App.P. 4(c):** If an inmate confined to an institution files a notice of appeal in either a civil case or a criminal case, the notice of appeal is timely if it is deposited in the institution’s internal mail system on or before the last day for filing. Timely filing may be shown by a declaration in compliance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746 or a notarized statement, either of which must set forth the date of deposit and state that first-class postage has been prepaid.

3. **Format of the notice of appeal:** Form 1, Appendix of Forms to the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure, is a suitable format. See also Fed.R.App.P. 3(c). A pro se notice of appeal must be signed by the appellant.

4. **Effect of a notice of appeal:** A district court loses jurisdiction (authority) to act after the filing of a timely notice of appeal, except for actions in aid of appellate jurisdiction or to rule on a timely motion of the type specified in Fed.R.App.P. 4(a)(4).